Claims:

1. A method of operating a fuel cell system, the method comprising:

(a) operating a component of the fuel cell system at a component operating rate;

(b) driving a load using the fuel cell;

(c) measuring an operating rate of the fuel cell;

(d) normally adjusting the component operating rate in dependence upon the operating rate of the fuel cell; and,

(e) in response to selected changes in the operating rate of the fuel cell, indicative of corresponding changes in the demand from the load, delaying adjustment of the component operating rate.

2. The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising

selecting a threshold rate of change in the operating rate of the fuel cell;

determining whether the rate of change in the operating rate of the fuel cell exceeds the threshold rate of change; and,

when the rate of change in the operating rate of the fuel cell exceeds the threshold rate of change, delaying adjusting the component operating rate.

3. The method as defined in claim 2, further comprising setting a threshold rate decrease in the operating rate of the fuel cell and determining whether the rate of decrease in the operating rate of the fuel cell exceeds the threshold rate of decrease.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3 including setting the threshold rate of decrease as one of an absolute magnitude change in the operating rate of the fuel cell and a proportion of the operating rate of the fuel cell, in a set selected time period.

5. The method as defined in claim 2 further comprising selecting a time lag to delay adjusting the component operating rate.

6. The method as defined in claim 2 wherein the threshold rate of change in the operating rate of the fuel cell is selected based on an operating context of the fuel cell system.

7. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the operating rate of the fuel cell is determined by measuring the demand from the load.

8. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the component is a process fluid delivery device for supplying a process fluid to a fluid cell, and the component operation rate is a process fluid supply rate.

9. A fuel cell system comprising

(a) a fuel cell for driving a load;

(b) at least one measuring device for monitoring an operating rate of the fuel cell;

(c) a controller for controlling an operation rate of a component of the fuel cell system based on the operating rate of the fuel cell; and,

(d) means for detecting selected changes in the operating rate of the fuel cell, indicative of corresponding changes in the demand from the load, and in response thereto, delaying adjustment of the operation rate of the component.

10. The fuel cell system as defined in claim 8 wherein the controller comprises

a memory for storing a threshold rat of change in the load and a select d time lag; and,

a processor for determining whether the rate of change in the operating rate of the fuel cell exceeds the threshold rate of change in the load,

wherein, when the rate of change in the load exceeds the threshold rate of change in the load, the controller delays adjusting the operation rate of the component during the time lag.

11. The fuel cell system as defined in claim 10, wherein the memory stores a threshold rate of decrease, and the processor determines if a decrease in the operating rate of the fuel cell exceeds the threshold rate of decrease.

12. The fuel cell system as defined in claim 11, wherein the memory stores the threshold rate of decrease as one of an absolute magnitude change in the operating rate of the fuel cell and a proportion of the operating rate of the fuel cell, in a set selected time period.

13. The fuel cell system as defined in claim 9 wherein the component is a process fluid delivery device.